

August Leader Training Sessions

Bradenton, FL



Ethan Selph

Ethan Selph traveled to Bradenton to be trained on August 3. He, like so many other of our facilitators, is one of our success stories. He improved himself at the Jericho Road Rescue Mission in Brooksville, FL by completing their residential program. Now he is moving into leadership there and helping others through the FIT program. See the note below from Jericho Road Director Cheryl Hart.

from Cheryl Hart: Ethan has successfully completed all FIT classes as part of the Jericho 11-month New Life Program. An outstanding participant of the program, Ethan made a decision to go further in the ministry in order to be able to assist others in addiction recovery and the road to New Life through Christ. Ethan has enrolled in our Jericho Advanced Rescue Servant (JARS) program and will complete a one year internship with the ministry in order to join our management team. His taking part in the FIT training was one aspect of his preparation for his new role. He is currently assigned as a Shelter Desk Manager at our 30-bed Men's Shelter. As part of the JARS program, Ethan will complete classes in Addiction Studies at City Vision University as well as facilitate FIT classes.

We were so pleased to be asked back to the Impact Church in Jacksonville to do a follow up training on August 17. This fine group included a few participants taking a refresher course as well as those taking the course because they could not make the May training. All of the people shown are already active in jail ministry. Many of them have or will be traveling 2-1/2 hours one-way to facilitate at the Lowell Correctional Institution women's prison in Ocala, FL. They are a super-motivated and dedicated group!

Do you like what you see and want to help FIT help volunteers and ministries, you can help by making a monthly donation through our website at <http://www.smartcart.com/fldrdad/cgi/search.cgi?terms=Donations::&category=Donations>

Jacksonville, FL



Updates...Updates...Updates

- **Reaction to the low turnout in our May Fundraiser.** The posting of the disappointing results of our May Fundraiser resulted in some new large one-time and monthly donations. This was in the order of thousands of dollars.
- **Effect of new policy of having ministries reuse course books instead of allowing individuals to write in them.** This has saved thousands of dollars and helped us to boost our operating budget substantially. Our books were designed to write in and we would appreciate special funding to allow us to provide course books for all. \$15,000 would pay for books for all our clients for a year. Over 95% of our clients and ministries are unable to pay for their books for various reasons.
- **Is FIT in financial trouble and in danger of closing?** No. Our bank balance is higher than it has ever been. That is not to say that we are still greatly underfunded, as we have been for over the past dozen years. We have been able to do what we do because of donated office space and our 100% volunteer workforce. Our only employees are part-time to run the office and currently are paid for a total of less than 20 hours per week.
- **Isn't the leadership aging and aren't most of the volunteers retired?** Yes and yes. We can't deny that, but our board is actively refining its Succession Policy. This year alone, we have started an office procedure manual to ensure that the office will still operate if new office managers have to take over. The reason we have so many senior volunteers is because so many younger people are unable to minister as much because they are working and supporting families. We still recruit young people and we hope to someday to have enough cash resources to pay some of them a livable wage to run the office. Until then, we will continue what we have been able to do with the resources that we have.
- **Updating our courses.** Most of our courses have been updated in the past four years. In a partnership with the Living Free ministry of Chattanooga, TN, five of our eight courses are now produced and published by Living Free. They are *Insight*, *Free to Grow*, *Dating and Marriage*, *Coping with the Losses of Life*, and *Financial Success*. FIT authors Don Pratt and Joseph Sheehan are currently on the Living Free writing team charged with rewriting the *Insight* course. Don Pratt wrote the *Dating and Marriage*, *Coping with the Losses of Life*, and the *Financial Success* courses. FIT receives royalties from Living Free for their sales of *Dating and Marriage* and *Financial Success* to their customers.
- **Modernizing and streamlining our office.** Our FIT office is high-tech. Don Pratt has used his programming and technical skills to produce the special data systems necessary to track graduations like we do and to maximize office efficiency. He also developed our website from scratch, saving time and money.

Your contribution can HELP US



Teach the poor, inmates, recently released, homeless, addicts, and those in recovery ways of becoming more productive



citizens, parents, spouses, employees, and church members.

Next Leader Trainings

Crystal River, FL..... TBA in October
 Bradenton, FLSaturday, November 2, 2019

refresher courses are free but you must still register.

Ministry Opportunities

We need more people for ministry in Bradenton/Sarasota area. Opportunities are being lost - in the faith dorms of Manatee and Sarasota County jails, the Learn to Fish Women's Recovery Center, the Bradenton Salvation Army, and local prisons.